## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image storage unit ~~that stores~~ configured to store a plurality of types of image data in a first data format [[and]] that is compressed;

a data format converter ~~that converts~~ configured to convert the first data format of the image data to a second data format being a general data format; and

a communicator including

a communication interface ~~that transmits~~ configured to transmit the image data of the first data format ~~and~~ together with the image data of the second data format as reference image data for the image data of the first data format to an external device.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

an ~~expandor that expands~~ expandor configured to expand the image data stored in the image storage unit;

a multinary unit ~~that converts~~ configured to convert image data expanded of low bits to multinary image data; and

a data compressor ~~that compresses~~ configured to compress the multinary image data [[in]] into a multinary general compression format.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

an ~~expandor that expands~~ expandor configured to expand the image data stored in the image storage unit;

a binary unit ~~that converts~~ <u>configured to convert</u> the image data expanded, which is monochrome multinary image data, to binary image data; and

a data compressor ~~that compresses~~ <u>configured to compress</u> the binary image data in a binary general compression format.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

a color space converter ~~that converts~~ <u>configured to convert</u> a color space of the image data stored in the image storage unit, which is color multinary image data, to a general color space.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

at least one resolution converter of a multinary resolution converter ~~that performs~~ <u>configured to perform</u> resolution conversion on the image data stored in the image storage unit, which is multinary image data; and

a binary resolution converter ~~that performs~~ <u>configured to perform</u> resolution conversion on [[the]] binary image data.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the <u>at least one</u> resolution converter ~~performs~~ <u>is configured to perform</u> resolution conversion on image data at a conversion rate such that [[the]] resolution of the image data as a base of conversion and a resolution after the conversion ~~are fallen~~ <u>fall</u> into a predetermined range.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an imaging unit ~~that forms~~ <u>configured to form</u> an image on a recording medium based on the image data stored in the image storage unit, wherein a printing function is combined with the imaging unit to adapt the first data format of the image data stored in the image storage unit to a data format used in the imaging unit.